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The University of Dayton

UD WELCOMES PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
AT SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

News Release

DAYTON, Ohio, March 4, 1988--Ushers in wheelchairs will greet churchgoers.

An interpreter will use sign language to translate the service for the deaf.

A blind person will read the scriptures using Braille.

Two mentally retarded persons will bring the offertory gifts to the altar.

A choir will sing with its hands.

It's all part of a Mass to recognize persons with disabilities that will be celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Chapel at the University of Dayton on Saturday, March 19 at 4:30 p.m. The Rev. Matthew Kohmescher, S.M., will preside over the regularly scheduled worship service, which is open to the general public.

As part of the service, a mime troupe of retarded adults will perform a short stage adaptation of Shel Silverstein's popular children's book, The Giving Tree. Adapted and directed by Lynn Berlon, the skit received an award of excellence earlier this month from Ohio Public Images, a statewide non-profit organization that promotes positive perceptions of people with disabilities.

"We're trying to involve handicapped people in a worship service to make them feel welcome at UD and allow them the opportunity to share their gifts," said Ross McGuire, a Marianist novice who is organizing the Mass.

Under the theme, "New Life Through Service," the Mass is part of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Although sponsored by UD's Office for Ministry and Religious Education Services (MORES), it represents a collaboration between Faith in Action, Faith and Light, Dayton Catholic Deaf Club, Hands in Harmony, Aid to Special People, Handicapped Student Services and the Special Education Program.

For more information, call Ross McGuire or Marilyn Bishop at 229-4325.

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